

# spastics NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

October, 1969

New Series, Price 6d.

## Chancellor says "no" to cash appeal

**THE Chancellor of the Exchequer's reply to The Spastics Society's request that it should be compensated for its £900,000 loss in the recent Pools Betting Duty case is an emphatic "No". The Society's second request that Football Pools which raise money for charity and measure up to certain prescribed conditions should be exempted either wholly or partially from Pool Betting Duty is also turned down.**

The Society made the plea to the Chancellor, Mr. Roy Jenkins, for an ex-gratia payment after losing £900,000 to the Commissioners of Customs and Excise as a result of the House of Lords verdict in the famous Pools Betting Duty case. The verdict—on June 25th—came after 4½ years battle in the lower courts.

The reply to the Society states:

"Section 7(2) (of the Finance Act 1964) placed all Pool Promoters on the same footing by providing that the duty was chargeable not only on stakes but also on all the profits and expenses of the promoter and others concerned with or benefiting from the promotion of the betting, unless these profits and expenses could be shown to have nothing to do with the betting, or came from the stakes."

Mr. W. A. Burn, the Society's Chairman, in a statement said:

"It is quite plain that the Chancellor considers that Charity Football Pools firms should be placed in exactly the same position as Football Pools that operate solely for profit. This is the hub of the matter although it is wrapped up in a mass of technicalities: the human side of their contribution for helping disabled persons has been disregarded in a ruthless search for fiscal uniformity and to satisfy the insatiable appetite of the Treasury."

"We are bitterly disappointed by Mr. Jenkins' decision. This money was donated by the public to help spastics, not to line the taxman's pocket. Its loss means the denial of life-giving help for heavily handicapped people in urgent need of care and treatment. Unless Charity Pools are given some relief from the present massive rate of Pool Betting Duty of 33½ per cent, their membership will dwindle at a faster rate than the membership of commercial

pools is dwindling. It is a classic case of greed killing the goose that lays the golden egg.

"Let the Chancellor and the Government remember that The Spastics Society is providing care, education and training for spastics which is the responsibility of the Welfare State. We are saving the taxpayer and ratepayer money. The loss of the £900,000 means that many spastics have been denied their chance in life. We cannot understand how Mr. Jenkins could refuse them justice."



*It's fun  
to help*

Raymond Strapp and Keith Groom still have enough energy for a celebration war dance after completing a sponsored run in aid of the Lady Zia Werhner Spastics Centre at Luton. The boys were helping to buy a wheelchair for a child at the Centre.

(Photo, courtesy Luton Evening Post).

## The inspiration of Bill Howe

Restaurant proprietor Mr. Fred Tedbury was filled with admiration when he read of spastic Bill Howe's struggle against enormous odds to overcome his severe handicaps and eventually write a book.

He was so impressed that he started an appeal among his customers, to raise money to buy gramophone records for Bill, who has spent the last 27 years in a Blackburn hospital.

Now a large number of records have been sent to Bill—who is an avid music lover—including the

whole range of Gilbert and Sullivan. Mr. Tedbury, of Sidmouth, Devon, read about the life of Bill Howe, in a newspaper left behind by one of his customers. He learned how Bill was almost totally disabled, how he could not walk or speak.

"When I read that Mr. Howe's greatest love in life was music, I felt I could do something to help," he said. "So I started the appeal to buy gramophone records."

Bill Howe has recorded his life story in a book which he wrote himself, using a typewriter which he

operated by means of a peg attached to his boot. Called "Crossed Wires," the book has been published by The Spastics Society. Copies may be obtained on application to the Society at 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1. Price 5s., including postage.

Bill's life story has also been recorded on film by two film technique students, Mr. Rodney Carr-Smith and Mr. Dario Piovani.

The students have entered the film in an international competition sponsored by a West German television company.

## Mile of courage for Ann

**TO swim a mile is no mean feat for the able bodied. But for a spastic girl with leg disabilities it is no less than gargantuan.**

But Ann Trotman, a pupil at the Thomas Delarue School, Tonbridge, Kent, swam a mile in about an hour during her school holidays, and raised £27 for Bristol Children's Hospital at the same time.

"I was going to take part in a sponsored walk for a youth club I belong to," said Ann, whose home is at Kingswood, Somerset. "Then I hit on the idea of a sponsored swim instead."

"The youth club told me they had enough funds and suggested that I gave the money to a good cause. I have been a patient at Bristol Children's Hospital several times, and recently while I was there for surgery I learned that the hospital needed a cine camera."

"I decided to donate the proceeds of my swim towards the cost of the camera. As it happened, the £27 paid for the camera completely."

Ann learned to swim about four years ago. She has swum a mile once before. "But I don't make a habit of it," she said. The sponsored mile swim took place at Soundwell Baths, Bristol.

Ann is now in her seventh year at the Thomas Delarue School, and is studying for her "A" levels in English and History.

## Director: let's unite to help the subnormal

**MORE** co-operation between voluntary organisations concerned with subnormal people was urgently needed, the Director of The Spastics Society, Mr. James Loring, said last week.

Speaking at a Study Group on Paediatric Aspects of Severe Mental Handicap, at the University of Nottingham, he said:

"We have now reached a critical stage in the development of the situation concerning subnormality hospitals. Much of the criticism that had

been dismissed in the past as exaggerated and even hysterical is now accepted as fact. There seems little doubt that the Government will take steps to improve some hospitals but there is a very real danger in their applying a cosmetic treatment when what is needed is surgery. The tarring up of a handful of degrading and disgusting hospitals might solve a Public Relations problem, but will get nowhere near the solution of the human problem. What is required is radical re-thinking."

"Some subnormal people require—and will always re-

quire—care or treatment in hospital, either temporary or permanent, but the vast majority are the responsibility of the community at large. It is essential that Local Authorities should be given the resources to resettle these people in small units within the community."

"The voluntary organisations have a vital role to play, but they are at the moment disunited in their approach. There is an urgent need for very close co-operation between all voluntary organisations concerned with the subnormal. Together they could perform the most influential of roles. If they do not co-operate on this issue a vital opportunity might not present itself again for many years."

Mr. Loring declared that The Spastics Society would welcome an early meeting of everybody who cared for the plight of the mentally subnormal. He appealed to the other Charities to get together immediately to form a united pressure group to ensure that much more money is spent in this field, and that it will be well spent. "We must concentrate our forces for an all-out battle to right the wrongs that are so obvious in the present system," he said.

## "Sign-in" with Spyder

**A** NOVEL idea from Spyder, the lively group of young Londoners who raise money for The Spastics Society. Spyder members are asking friends and well-wishers all over the country to join them in wishing Prince Charles a happy 21st birthday on November 14th. They do this by signing their names on special forms which Spyder will send to the Prince, together with a birthday card.

But for the privilege of adding their names and joining in Spyder's good wishes to Prince Charles, the signee makes a donation to The Spastics Society. It is, in fact, a "sponsored sign-in" and represents a clever twist to the sponsored walk idea.

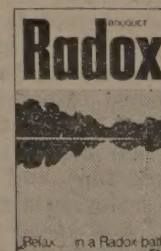
Says Mr. Anthony Sutcliffe, Spyder Chairman: "As this is a project which has not been thought of before, we hope the response will be tremendous. Prince Charles takes a great interest in the activities of the younger generation, so we hope this idea will be well received."

## Relax in a Radox bath

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## Flowing Kaftan ideal for chair

SUSAN has problems. She's an independent soul, has some use of one hand and if she hangs on to something can stand on her own two feet for all of thirty seconds. None of which is much help when it comes to dressing herself.

Owing to the above mentioned complications Susan has never possessed a dressing gown because of the impossibility of putting first one arm in, hauling the garment round between her and her wheelchair, putting the other arm in and then coping with fastenings. Also impossible is the feat of tucking it in under her when she sits in her chair.

The answer was a flowing, glamorous kaftan with no fas-

tenings at all. Susan lays it on her bed, nose-dives into it while sitting in her chair and wriggles into it. The back is only bottom length so she doesn't have to tuck it underneath her. The front flows around her legs and the fact that the back is mini-mini length does not show and is a great help when it comes to spending a penny, adjusting of garment being so much simpler.

A kaftan is very easy to make, consisting virtually of two pieces and four small triangles to ease arm movement. Contrasting neck and cuff trim optional. As it is a loose flowing garment the only vital measurements are total length, arm length and shoulder width.

# ELECTRIC PAGE TURNERS ARE "INEFFICIENT - OFTEN UNSAFE"

## Having a smashing time

CHESTER-LE-STREET Chamber of Trade organised a successful three-day Festival in aid of Durham Spastics Society.

The celebrations began on a Friday with a programme for children. This included a fancy dress parade, a display of decorated cycles and a pet show.

Saturday was devoted to juvenile jazz bands, who provided excellent entertainment for the crowd and the judges had a difficult task choosing between the five bands for the various trophy awards.

On Sunday, there was a mixed bag of events which included a mini-skirt competition, dog obedience and karate demonstrations, folk singing, clog and sword dancing and a piano-smashing contest.

The latter, organised by Mr. L. Tregoning of the Durham County Spastics Society, attracted a great deal of interest, and eight teams took part. During the earlier heats of the contest it took an average time of 5 minutes to break up a piano, but the finals resulted in a dead heat between two teams from local pubs with a time of 3½ minutes.

The festival ended on Sunday evening with a dancing and folk singing entertainment.

## Treat from Boy Sailors

Boy ratings from H.M.S. Raleigh organised and financed a trip to Paignton for a party of Plymouth spastics.

The young sailors, aged between 16 and 18, arranged the outing entirely on their own initiative. Most of them had been in the navy for only six weeks and therefore had only two pay days on which to find the money for the trip.

A group of 23 boys picked up the spastics by coach from the Trengwath Centre, took them round the Zoo and treated them to a meal before returning to Plymouth.

For those disabled people whose arm and hand movements are severely restricted, reading presents quite a problem. Even for people with no arm disability, page turning is not always the simplest of operations.

A number of mechanical devices have been developed to turn the pages of magazines, books, newspapers and so on for the handicapped. They are electrically powered, and do the job in a variety of different ways.

The Research Institute for Consumer Affairs (RICA), has been testing the different types of page turner, as part of an extensive programme of comparative tests of equipment for the disabled. The programme has been sponsored by the National Fund for Research into Crippling Diseases, and the Sembal Trust.

RICA came to the disappointing conclusion that there was no such thing as a multi-purpose 100 per cent effective page-turner. In addition, it found that five of the nine page turners tested were electrically unsafe.

## USA Best

Many devices tended to turn two pages at a time, others could only turn pages forward, one tore a page of the book

attached to it, and others were difficult to set up.

The page turners ranged in price from £6 to £100 and came from America, Belgium and Britain.

The best turner, from the point of view of being easy to set up, having a good range of book rest angle and being able to cope with a wide variety of reading materials, was the American Lakeland, which cost £100. This would have to be made electrically safe however.

A similar English turner, the Contact was only £30 and was nearly as effective, but needed to be made more stable.

However, neither of these models could turn pages backwards as well as forwards.

A turner known as the Stanmore could be built by enthusiastic model makers for as little as £6, but some skill was needed in operating this device. It was battery operated and electrically safe.

RICA felt that ready made versions of the Stanmore could

be developed and sold for as little as £10 to £20.

For readers who had to lie on their backs the Cambridge was an efficient page turner, but at £99 this was expensive.

A prototype from Belgium, the Belgique, had many potentially good features. It would have to be made electrically safe and developed to a production model.

## Special Fridges

RICA also brought out a report on refrigerators and how they could be improved to help the disabled.

Mr. Paul Fletcher, Chairman of RICA, said that many of the modifications which would help disabled people, would also be of great help to ordinary people.

The report pointed out that no manufacturer made a refrigerator designed especially for the disabled and none had standard modifications available (apart from two who would fit braille thermostat knobs on request).

RICA found that there were 31 possible features in the design of a refrigerator, which would make it easier for a disabled person to use. None of these features would make it any less convenient for able-bodied people, and most of them would be of advantage to them.

None of the refrigerators tested had all these design features, nor even all of the most important ones.

None of the fridges had swing out basket shelves or a raised edge at the back of the shelves to stop things falling off when the shelves were pulled forward.

Few had stops to prevent shelves from being pulled right out or shelves which pulled out without tipping. Neither did they have stay-open doors on the frozen foods compartments.

Since its formation in 1954, the Willenhall Central Darts League has raised more than £1,500 for the North Staffordshire Spastics Association.

## News on Mobility Aids by the Appliances Officer

It is not every month, or even every year, that I am able to report two new developments from the Department of Health and Social Security.

The first, the new Model 28B, is a replacement for the old, cumbersome attendant-operated electric wheelchair.

This model is being supplied where the health of the attendant, the weight of the handicapped person, or the hilly countryside, require powered assistance.

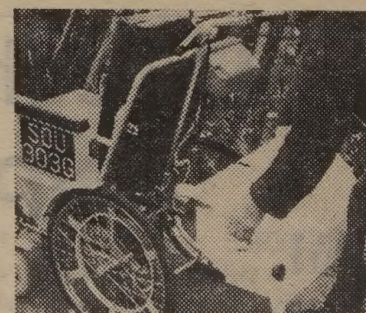
Although it is extremely simple to drive and can be easily steered, the attendant requires a driving licence and the vehicle must be registered. You will see from the pictures that the registrations numbers are placed on the armrests so that they are clearly visible when crossing the road. The chair is also fitted with side-lights for night travel.



Photo 1. Mr. E. Ball of March, Cambs., demonstrates the chair to Mrs. Ball who is "sitting in" for their daughter Jacqueline.

Photo 2. Showing detachable leg-rests and lever-steered front castors with cable brakes.

Photo 3. Slip-out bolts remove the plastic parcel carrier and allow the battery to be topped up.



The second aid sent in by Mr. Gibbs of Tamworth, Staffs, who made it for his son, Christopher, has been an enormous success.

The Department of Health and Social Security supplies a similar aid on prescription from your hospital specialist, also the Amesbury Yorkhill wheelchair which is slightly bigger. However, most prescribing specialists are not aware that these aids are available because they are not shown in the Prescribers Handbook of Wheelchairs. The Handbook has just been revised and is being re-issued.



## Human touch in Croydon's report on year

CROYDON and District Spastics Society's Annual Report for 1968-69 has got right away from the usual stereotyped image of such publications. It tells briefly the life story of one of the older spastic employees at the group's Work Centre. "Peter", who is deaf as well as being a spastic, is a cheerful and lively character, but owing to his gross communication difficulties, the Work Centre is the only place that will accept him without his mother.

Peter's mother is getting to the age where she knows she will be unable to care for him much longer. The report uses this case to stress the need for a small family-type hostel.

The Croydon Society is endeavouring to purchase the house next door to the Work Centre for the purpose. All that is needed is the money to adapt and equip it and, most important of all, to run it each year.

The need for a hostel was also referred to by Miss Jean Garwood, in her chairman's speech at the Society's Annual General Meeting. She said: "The Work Centre has opened up new opportunities and new friendships, and the employees are enjoying a new-found freedom and sense of purpose."

"It would be cruel if, having opened up this new way of life, it had to be taken away again, and they found themselves in

a hospital ward because no other place would take them."

## EFFORT

To help guard against this, the Society wanted to augment the work of the Centre—which they wanted to expand anyway—with a residential hostel.

"One big effort from every-

## BITS AND PIECES by The Collector

one," said Miss Garwood, "would enable both to go full steam ahead."

Telford New Town in Shropshire now has its own spastics group which will raise money for spastics living in the area.

Called the Telford Support Group of the Shropshire Spastics Association, its aim during the first year will be to raise £1,000.

Mr. John Lovatt, of The Incline, Ketley, and Mrs. J. M. Rees, of Wrockwardine Road, Wellington, are the founder members.

Mr. Lovatt said at a press conference that 60 per cent of Shropshire's spastics lived in the Telford area. He felt it was time to raise money locally to help them.

CASTLEFORD and District Spastics Society, Yorkshire, showed a financial increase of over £800 during the past year, but there was no room for complacency, the treasurer, Mr. B. S. Stringer, told the Annual Meeting.

Mr. Stringer said the Society "still faced the tremendous task" of providing a holiday home for spastics.

Earlier the Chairman, the Rev. S. Fell, had referred to the sound financial progress made during the past 12 months, which had enabled the Society to press on with its main objective of purchasing a holiday home on the East Coast.

Mr. Fell remarked that the Appeals Committee had ensured financial stability, but there was ample room for improvement in Castleford.

AS a result of Spastics Week in Nottingham, the local group has been promised the support of the City of Nottingham Round Table during the coming year.

## Fund Raising

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## The fun way down



Mr. Michael Shannon, Round Table Chairman, enjoys a slide with a happy spastic child. The Royston Round Table has presented a £1,000 adventure playground to Meldreth Training School.

## Exciting ideas from Sweden

A RECREATION centre where handicapped people can meet and work at their favourite hobbies opened in Stockholm in September. Two floors of a new building have been designed in collaboration with handicapped people and outfitted with workshops for dress designers, silversmiths, sculptors, etc., and a large library with taped newspapers and Braille books.

Run under the auspices of the city of Stockholm, social workers, teachers and gym teachers will be around to help and advise. There will be a restaurant and cafeteria, hairdressers with comfy chairs, sturdy rails along the walls, and underground parking space for ten invalid cars. A bus service will be provided for the severely handicapped.

"We hope to keep the centre open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., since we feel we should get our money's worth out of the rent," says consultant Karl-Oskar Melén.

### HANDICAP AA

The Swedish Athletic Association for the Handicapped has been formed, drawing its membership from organisations of all kinds for handicapped people, and has been adopted as a section of the National Swedish Athletic Association.

Said chairman Sven Eklöv, at its formation, "This is a historical moment for the entire athletic movement. Now both the handicapped and the non-handicapped are together under the same umbrella and it's going to be good for us all."

The government has promised considerable financial support, and the handicapped themselves are going to build themselves a building, "without a flashy facade, but where every single detail is functional."

# All dressed up for a very good cause



There are many ways of raising money for spastics, and many ways of publicising the cause. Our pictures show two particularly entertaining efforts—entertaining not only for the public but, we suspect, also thoroughly enjoyed by the people taking part.

On the left: Maidstone Area Group on their way to winning first prize in the charity section of Maidstone Carnival with their cheerful Robin Hood tableau.

Below: During a comedy cricket match at Worthing, Miss Jacqueline Dennis and Mr. David Willey toured the boundary area on horseback collecting money for spastics. Their costumes knocked the crowd for six!

(Pictures by courtesy of the Kent Messenger and the Worthing Herald).

## Eat-in is the new idea

It seems to be the in thing to hold an "in" thing these days. There are laugh-ins, love-ins and teach-ins.

Now the Maidstone Area Group of The Spastics Society has hopped on the bandwagon by holding an eat-in, to raise money for the treatment of spastic children at its centre in Moat Road, Maidstone.

About 200 people turned up for the eat-in, held at Harples Farm, Detling. They each paid 5s admission fee which entitled them to pitch in to the variety of barbecued fare available.

The eat-in was the first function of its kind held by the Maidstone Group, although they plan to hold more in the future. Meanwhile the group is busy planning its Christmas Fair, to be held at the Corn Exchange, Maidstone.

The eat-in was organised by Mrs. R. Earl, Chairman of the Steering Committee and Vice-President of the Maidstone Group.



## Employment moves and news

RECENT employment news and moves are as follows (training centres in brackets):

**MICHAEL BOUCHER** from Carlton (Sherrards) is employed locally as a trainee machinist.

**RICHARD BROADHEAD** from Leyton (Sherrards) has a new job as a lift attendant.

**RAYMOND CHILDS** from Cricklewood (Sherrards) is now working as a machine operator.

**ALAN CONWAY** from London (Sherrards) is working as an assistant storekeeper.

**JOHN ELEY** from Ipswich is working locally as a trainee stores assistant.

**PATRICIA GREEN** from Darlington (Sherrards) is working in Halifax.

**COLIN HARLEY** from Oldham (Lancaster) has a new job locally as a capstan operator.

**TIMOTHY HEALEY** from Barnes (Sherrards & Birmingham Sheltered W/S) is now doing drilling, inspection, and fly press work for an engineering firm in Richmond.

**MARTIN JENKINS** from Coventry is working as a spray painter.

**LYNETTE KING** from Brislinton is doing filing work in a large office in Worcester.

**ANN LUDWIG** from Bootle (Lancaster) is working locally

as an armature winder.

**PETER MIDDLEDITCH** from Fakenham is working in Norwich.

**ANGELA MULLINS** from Cleckheaton (Lancaster) is working locally as a clerk-telephonist.

**ROBERT PARKER** from West Ham (Sherrards) has changed his job and is now doing packing and labouring work in a local warehouse.

**BARRY PIDGEON** from Guildford (Queen Elizabeth's College, Leatherhead) was awarded the Louis Jarvis Prize for the outstanding trainee of 1968. He is now working in a large garage concern.

**DAVID RANGLES** from Urmston (Lancaster) is working in Manchester as a trainee spot welder.

**IRENE ROE** from Bilton (Lancaster) is now working as a packer.

**ROGER SPILLING** from Ipswich (Joseph Lucas, Birmingham) is working as a machine operator for a firm in Haddleigh.

**SUSAN STEVENSON** from New Malden (Sherrards) is working in Ruislip as an engraver and silk screen printer.

**ROBIN TURNER** from Stoke (Sherrards) is working locally as a press operator.

**WILLIAM WALLWORK** from Swinton (Sherrards) is now employed in the milling

department of a firm in Halifax.

**DOUGLAS WILLIAMS** from Greasby (Lancaster) has commenced a general engineering apprenticeship with Messrs. Cammell Laird Ltd. in Birkenhead.

**JUNE WILLIAMS** from Trefor (Sherrards) is now working in Ruislip as an assembler and solderer.

**PAULINE WINFIELD** from Cirencester (Sherrards) has a new job as an assembler for a firm in Malmesbury.

**DAVID WISE** from Catford (Sherrards) has a new job as a milling machine operator for an engineering firm in Beckenham.

## No business like show business

There's no business like show business according to 12 young girls from Tunbridge Wells. They put on a variety concert recently and raised £6 15s. for spastics.

Guest of honour at the concert was Mr. K. Smith, Secretary of the Tunbridge Wells and District Spastics Society, which received the money. Mr. Smith's comment: "It was a jolly good little show, which the children had spent a lot of time rehearsing."

## First challenge for Princess title

WITH PLANS for the 1970 National Charity Queen and National Charity Princess Contest barely announced, Daresbury Hall has jumped in quickly to register the first contestant for the title.

The sponsors are the Coachhouse Club, Daresbury Hall's Staff Social Club, and the girl they have nominated to contest the title on their behalf is attractive 21-year-old Heather May Puddephatt, a general assistant at Daresbury Hall's Physiotherapy Department.

Heather, who is engaged, has

already started collecting in an effort to beat the £1,699 raised by the current title-holder, Christina Peel-Yates, who also works for The Spastics Society.

During her spare time, Heather is keen on drama, swimming, driving and sewing, and her ambition is to be a professional actress.

Plans are already in hand for next year's final of the contest which will be held at the Lyceum Ballroom, London, on June 26. The 1970 contest is organised by Top Ten Promotions Ltd., under the sponsorship of leading national companies, and is presented by Don Moss.

Four boys from Trowbridge found a different way of making money for spastics. They held a jumble sale outside a shop in Trowbridge and raised £3 14s. 10d., which they sent to the Coventry branch of The Spastics Society. The boys were aged between 10 and 12.

Two Barrow girls aged 8 have also been holding a jumble sale in aid of spastics. They raised £4 3s. 4d. for the Barrow and District Spastic and Handicapped Children's Society.

## Plans for new project

At the Annual General Meeting of the Hertfordshire Spastics Society it was reported that £11,350 had been raised during the past year.

The Chairman, Mr. F. Blyth, said that the group was planning to start a new project for the county and two possibilities had been discussed.

One was the provision of a day centre for spastics aged 12-15, and the other was a residential home for severely handicapped adults.

During the meeting a cheque for £2,000 was handed over by Watford branch to be used on the project fund.

All the members of the County committee were re-elected.

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# Kind Saltdean gives spastics a holiday



Elizabeth Greeley of Bristol tells her own story of the holiday

## Wonderful time

I WAS fortunate enough to be chosen to go on the holiday so very kindly donated to us by the people of Saltdean. The Rev. Tanshill and his parishioners had gone to a tremendous amount of care and trouble to convert the Church Hall into a very comfortable and suitable place for us all. Not only did the Rev. Tanshill make sure that we were very well cared for during the day time, but he ensured that two very kind ladies stayed on night duty with us all, the while we were asleep. Our two friends even woke us up in the morning with a wonderful cup of tea.

All the helpers and friends were wonderfully understanding to us all, and the spirit which existed between us during that week's holiday was one which I shall never forget. Everyone was so happy in helping us with difficulties, and we felt that we were really able to enjoy their companionship to the full.

The holiday programme was an exciting and full one. We spent most of the mornings on the beach, using two beach huts which were kindly put at our disposal, and in the afternoons we visited places of interest in and around Brighton. These trips were very exciting and happy. Our wheelchairs were very ably catered for by means of electric ramps on to buses.

I shall never forget the evenings. We went to three theatre shows—the Mike and Bernie Winters Show, the Harry H. Corbett Show, and the Ronnie Corbett Show. These visits were great fun and we have something to remember from every show.

### Amusing Moments

The funniest thing, I think, was when we all had to rush along the length of Brighton Pier so that we would reach the theatre in time. The wooden slats along the pier made our wheelchairs shake terribly and the "pushers" felt like pneumatic drills.

We also had a shopping spree in Brighton. Everybody enjoyed going round the shops in two or threes, and later my friend Sue and I had great fun watching other people enjoying themselves on the dodgem cars. We tried to work out how we could help each other on to the cars, but in the end we decided not to try!

David, the Assistant Clubs Officer, was very friendly with us all. He went to a lot of trouble to make sure that we were all happy and treated us like adults. I think he is a most remarkable chap and a great encouragement to his fellow spastics.

The last night was especially enjoyable, though we were

very sorry to have to leave our new friends in Saltdean. Everyone who had taken part in making the holiday such a success came along to enjoy the final social evening. Many people entertained us, and games and sing-songs helped to make the evening go with a swing. This was one of the best holidays I have had in my life, and it went too quickly for us all. I feel sure that I am speaking for everyone when I say thank you very much to all those kind people in Saltdean who took the trouble to make the holiday such a wonderful success.

DESPITE numerous setbacks, a total of £300 was raised for spastics at the Croydon and District's Spastics Society's Sixth Annual Horse Show and Gymkhana, held at Great Bookham, Surrey.

The show's organiser, Mrs. Margot Renny, described it as a "great success", and said that under the circumstances she was amazed that so much money had been raised.

Setback number one came in June, when the show was originally to have been held. There was an outbreak of equine 'flu in the district, and the show had to be postponed for fear of spreading the disease.

### Even the Weather

Setback number two was that David Jacobs, who was to have presented cups and trophies if the show had been held in June, was unable to attend the postponed show because of his late night television programme.

Setback number three was the weather. It was cold, overcast and misty on the day of the show, and this kept spectators away. The result was a drop in programme sales and car admission charges.

Setback number four was that a riding display by disabled children could not be held. The children, with their

Above: Some of the guests sit down to tea at the Church Hall at Saltdean, which had been converted to provide sleeping, eating and leisure facilities. Below: Miss Anne Kimber, who gave up a week's holiday to help with the project, serves one of the guests, Miss Maureen Sinnott of Birmingham.

(Photos, courtesy Brighton Herald).



SPASTICS from all over the country had a week's free holiday through the generosity of residents at the seaside town of Saltdean, in Sussex.

The 22 visitors, aged between 20 and 40, were based at St. Nicholas' Church Hall, Saltdean. They were looked after by a team of four volunteers led by the vicar, the Rev. Derek Tansill, and more than 70 part-time volunteers. Nearly £300 had been collected locally for the scheme.

The church hall was converted into dormitories, and leisure and dining areas. A full programme was organised for the holidaymakers.

Two coaches were borrowed so that the party could be taken to interesting places in Sussex. Saltdean Cafe was transformed for a dinner party one evening, and a cabaret was given by local folk singer Miles Wootton.

Mr. Tansill said: "We are indebted to a lot of people who have made this possible. As well as help from The Spastics Society and the local welfare services, we were loaned equipment by the Rottingdean centre of the Red Cross."

After the holiday Mr. Tansill received many letters of thanks from the visitors, including one which announced the engagement of Miss Jill Smallridge of Bristol and Mr. Steven Gordon of Wakefield, Yorks. The couple met while they were staying at Saltdean.

## Scottish invention aids disabled

A Scottish invention has brought hope to hundreds of severely disabled people, who up till now have had no means of communication.

The invention, by Mr. Ellis Cohen, of Glasgow, enables people whose movements are severely restricted, to operate a typewriter.

It consists of a board, bearing the letters of the alphabet and figures from one to 10, a scanning light and a pressure pad, which is operated by hand.

The writer waits till the light is on the letter or number required and then presses the pad. This activates a solenoid which in turn pulls down the key of the typewriter. The speed at which the light passes over the letters is controlled to suit the reactions of the operator.

A 17-year-old boy at Scotsraig—a home run by the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics—tried out the invention recently, and was able to spell out the first four letters of his name for the first time.

Mr. Cohen said the prototype of his invention was still in the roughest stage. He added that it would open up new horizons for many spastics who were at present unable to communicate.

The cost of converting an ordinary typewriter would be £100 he said.

## GENEROUS CHILDREN

An 11-year-old girl has raised £27 for spastics, by holding sales of soft toys, old clothing and bric-a-brac in her back garden.

She is Ann Turner, of West Byfleet, Surrey whose latest sale raised a total of £15. Previous sales raised £8 and £4.

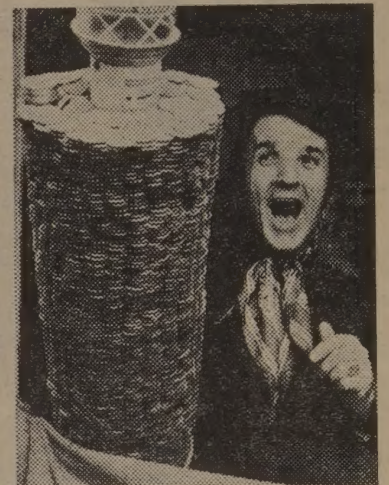
Relations and friends make the toys and donate the jumble for Anne's sales, and Anne arranges competitions and entertainments to raise even more money.

The proceeds go to White Lodge Spastics Centre.

Two more youngsters who have been holding sales for spastics are Michael and Peter Dawson, aged eight and 13, of Oldham.

They raised £7 7s for the Oldham Spastics Centre by holding jumble sales outside their home.

The Kenfig Hill and District Spastics Society, South Wales, has celebrated its 10th anniversary with a buffet dance at the Seabank Hotel, Porthcawl.



ALAN FREEMAN gleefully knocks over a pile of pennies at the George and Dragon, Swanscombe, Kent, for another successful collection from this active house.

### Marvellous work

St. Albans City Hospital's spastics treatment unit was visited by the City's Mayor, Councillor John Farrelly, recently.

After chatting with children and parents at the unit, the Mayor described the work being done there as "marvellous."

## Setbacks — but horse show canters home to a success

ponies, were to have travelled from Kent. However the children, from the Thomas Delarue School, Tonbridge, had just returned from their school holidays, and had no chance to

explained that it would be extremely unwise for handicapped children to put on a riding display without sufficient training after the summer break.

Mrs. Renny pointed out that the cost of running the show had been substantially increased because of the postponement. Many of the arrangements had to be carried out twice, and postage costs were doubled.

"Nevertheless there were a record number of entries," she said. "As much as £70 15s. was taken in entry money at the show. And the jumping events were all booked up well before the show took place.

### Popularity

"This show seems to be gaining popularity every year. It's a far cry from the small event we held six years ago. In fact, it has grown to become one of the biggest non-affiliated events in the district.

"We have received many compliments and congratulations on the way in which the show is run."

Cups and trophies were presented by National Charity Princess Miss Tina Peel-Yates, standing in for David Jacobs, Miss Peel-Yates also visited a



Miss Sally Scutts, 14, of Knockholt, Kent, on Doctor Inkley, was an enthusiastic competitor at the Show. Sally's father, Mr. W. H. Scutts, donated the Challenge Cup for the juvenile jumping event.

practise their riding display. In June they would have been at the peak of their form.

Mr. Peter Feldgate, from the Bradbourne Riding and Training Centre, Sevenoaks, where the children are taught to ride,

display of the various crafts made at the Society's Work Centre at Croydon.

The display was held in a marquee close to one of the jumping rings. Three spastics demonstrated some of the work carried out at the Centre. Susan Melton showed how she



Miss Susan Melton demonstrates the weaving of stool seats at the Centre's display at the Horse Show.

made the tops for footstools, while Jenny Atkinson and Vickie Jukes assembled parts for colour television sets.

As usual the show was held at Kenilworth Stables, Dorking Road, Breat Bookham, Surrey. Equipment for the show was loaned by Mr. H. M. Pollak,

the owner of Kenilworth Stables.

The Croydon and District Spastics Society runs both a Work Centre and a Day Nursery for spastics. Its first project was the Day Nursery which was started in 1953, and the Work Centre was opened in 1964.

### Extensions

Recently work began on extensions to the Work Centre, which is situated at Bramley Hill, South Croydon. A spokesman for the Society said that when the extensions were complete, the Centre would be one of the largest of its kind in Great Britain. Already 48 spastics could be employed at the Centre, but the additional space would allow up to 75 spastics to work there.

Despite severe multiple handicaps, workers at the Centre produced two million components last year for radar equipment, geiger counters, television sets and washing machines. In addition 220,000 wire coat hangers and 900 baskets, stools and bathmats were produced.

Proceeds from the horse show bring the total amount raised by the Society from horse shows up to about £1,800.



## FINE WORK BY COOMBE FARM PAINTERS

VICTOR HANCOX is a severely handicapped spastic who is unable to use his hands. Yet he paints vibrant landscapes which could compete with the works of many professional painters.

Victor, a resident at Coombe Farm Centre, Croydon, paints with his head. He wears a skull cap with a small metal cylinder attached to it, into which he fits his brushes. At one stage he used to paint with his feet, but he has found that he can gain more control over the brush by using his head.

An exhibition of paintings by residents of Coombe Farm was held in the sun lounge at the Fairfield Halls, Croydon, recently.

Victor's work was the most outstanding, but other resi-

dents also exhibited pictures of an extremely high standard. Some hold their brushes in the same way as Victor Hancox, others use their feet, some their mouths, and many are able to use one of their hands.

They are taught to paint by an art master provided by the local education authority.

The exhibition of paintings lasted a week. Members of the group of Friends of Coombe Farm, and spastics from the Centre, were on hand to discuss their work with people visiting the exhibition.



The exhibition attracted considerable interest among people visiting Fairfield Halls. Above: Anthony Davey (in wheelchair), of Coombe Farm Centre, was on hand during the exhibition to answer questions from visitors. Left: Linda Morris, 22, a Coombe Farm Centre resident, discusses the paintings with a member of the public who dropped in to view. One of Linda's own paintings was on show at the exhibition.

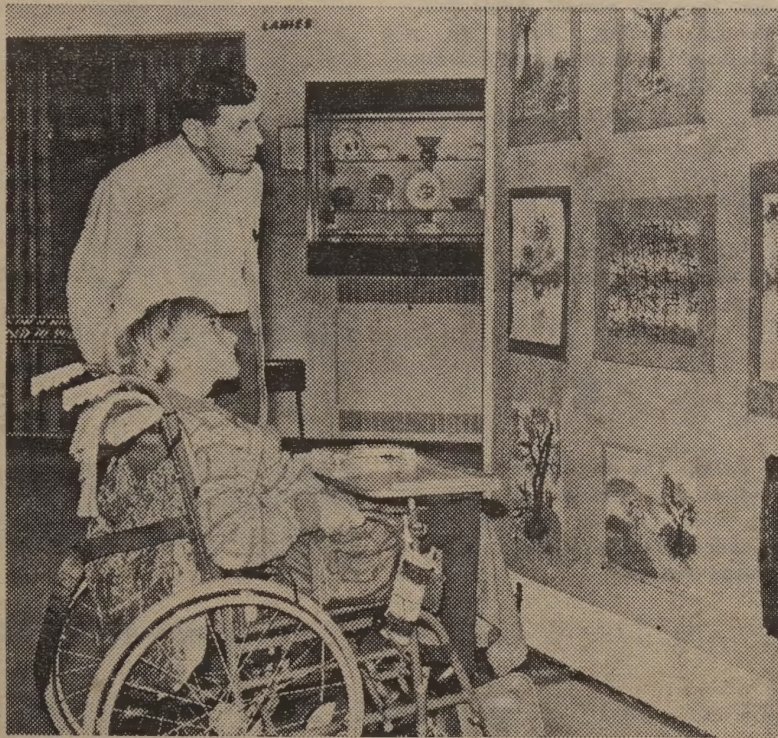
## CITY GENTS SHOW A LEG

Charity walkers in Yorkshire decided to show a leg during the "City Gents" eight mile hike at Beverley.

Although they clung to the traditional city gents' props of bowler hat, brief case and umbrella, they discarded the pin striped trousers in favour of shorts.

Soon they were puffing and blowing in short pants along the eight mile course from Queen's Gardens to Fleming House, Beverley.

They raised a total of £200 which was shared by the Hull and District Spastics Society, the Hull Multiple Sclerosis Society, and the Hull and East Riding Hospital Broadcasting Service.



## From John O'Groats to Lands End

David Ryder, below, a 21-year-old polio victim, walked on elbow crutches from John O' Groats to Lands End to raise money for the Pony Riding for the Disabled Trust. One of his overnight stops on the 7-week marathon was at The Spastics Society's Training Centre in Lancaster.

Our picture (below) shows Mr. Ryder setting out from Lancaster watched by Mr. J. Parkinson, Training Centre Manager, and Mr. H. Lloyd, Bursar-Warden at the Centre.

Mr. Chris Williams (right), an electrical engineer from Farnham, Surrey, gave up his

summer holiday to walk the same marathon route in aid of the White Lodge Spastics Centre, Chertsey. Mr. Williams performed his hike from John O' Groats to Lands End in 3½ weeks. The walk was organised by the Round Table, whose members gave assistance en route so that the money collected from sponsors could all be devoted to the cause.

Half way through his journey, Chris said it had long been an

ambition of his to walk from John O' Groats to Lands End. "I always knew I could do it," he added.

"My feet are pretty sore at the moment and covered with blisters. I've never done any long distance walking before and I don't think I'll be doing it again. Not for a long while anyway.

"When I started this journey I had a new pair of shoes, but they're well worn down now. Let's hope they hold together till I reach Lands End."

(First picture by courtesy of Lancaster Guardian, second by courtesy Surrey Advertiser).



## They all deserved a prize

A SMALL group of children rode their ponies at a gymkhana near Watford in September, and each one was presented with a rosette. Not that they had won any of the events. Their achievement was that they could ride at all, for they are all spastics from the Watford Spastics Centre, and most are severely handicapped.

The children began learning to ride in June this year. "Since then they have improved tremendously, both physically and in their personalities," said Mrs. Barbara Stallworthy, Speech Therapist at the Watford Centre.

### IMPROVEMENT

"For one thing, riding helps them to improve their posture. They have to sit upright and hold their heads up. This is very good for them. Some of the children have a scissor gait, and riding helps them to hold their legs apart. It also teaches them balance.

"But most important is the effect that riding has on their personalities. It is very stimulating for them, and it builds up their self-confidence enormously.

### IDEA FROM FILM

The riding lessons began after Mrs. Stallworthy—a keen horsewoman herself—saw the film, "Riding for the Disabled" in May this year. She discussed the film with Miss Susan Trigg, instructress at Coltspring Stables, Sarratt, near Watford, who suggested that children

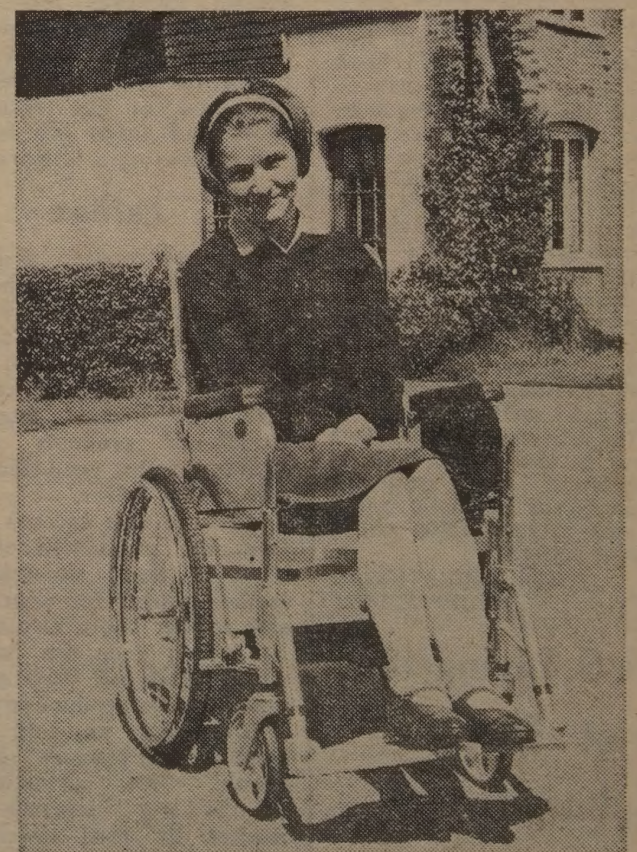
ted to them, so that they can be held onto easily.

"Coltspring Stables has bought two Mexican saddles, with large pommels on them, specially for the children. The saddles are particularly useful in the early stages, because the children can clutch hold of the pommels and support themselves.

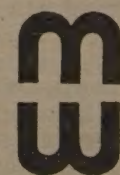
"At present we have eight regular riders aged between four and six. We have become affiliated to the Disabled Riders' Association, which is in turn affiliated to the British Horse Society."

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INSTANTLY DETACHABLE ARMRESTS AND DRIVING WHEELS. ALL WITH AUTOMATIC LOCKS. FOOTRESTS ARE DETACHABLE, ADJUSTABLE. NO MAINTENANCE NYLON BEARINGS. 100% GUARANTEE.



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# Drummonds — a new Centre *The varied life*

H.R.H. THE DUCHESS OF KENT will open Drummonds, The Spastics Society's newest Adult Residential Centre, on October 8th. At the same time she will place the official seal on a completely new way of life for the people who live there.

Residents of Drummonds are of normal intelligence, but they are very severely handicapped. Independence, for them, is out of the question. "Our job," said Warden Mr. Raymond Smith, "is not rehabilitation, but providing a permanent home for the spastics who live here."

"At Drummonds they have an opportunity to work and earn a small wage, they have pleasant living conditions and plenty of room for relaxation. Above all we try to create an informal atmosphere. There is no regimentation, and regulations are kept down to a minimum. Staff and residents work together as equals."

## The first

The ultra modern new Drummonds buildings stand side by side with a stately former Vicarage—once lived in and painted by John Constable—on a site adjacent to the Parish Church at Ferring, in Essex. Less than a mile away stands Prested Hall, surrounded by 40 acres of parkland, which served as an Adult Residential Centre for spastics until

Drummonds was completed last year.

Prested Hall was the first Adult Residential Centre for Spastics in the world. It was opened in 1956, and housed up to 40 spastics.

But the new Centre was envisaged right from the outset, and its eventual construction was inevitable. The site was purchased three years ago, and construction took 15 months. Residents moved in during August last year.

The new buildings are divided into three blocks, each connected by wide glazed corridors so that residents need not go outside in bad weather. There is a residential block, a workshop block, and a social and administration block.

Everywhere the designers have taken into account the specialised needs of handicapped people. Corridors and doorways are wide, to enable wheelchairs to pass easily, and there are no steps. Water taps have easy-to-operate levers. Switches are placed within easy reach of residents. Cloak room pegs are near to the ground, so that people in wheelchairs can reach them.

The residential block is rectangular and surrounds a gravelled courtyard, in which small gardens have been cultivated. There are 16 single bedrooms, as well as a number of small dormitories for two, three or four people.

All of the bedrooms are centrally heated. They are all light, airy, modern and pleasantly decorated. Each room has direct access to the outside, so that residents can get out quickly in case of fire.

On the bedheads are two buttons. One operates a bedlight. The other operates a bell which will summon the night duty officer in a nearby room.

Bathrooms contain high and low level baths, and there are special facilities for women residents to wash and dry their hair. Two small apartments for staff members are contained in the residential block and there are lounges, one containing a television set.

## Lathes

The two modern and spacious workshops are the home of a host of industries, as mundane as sorting pieces of plastic and as intricate and skilled as wood turning and weaving. Last year income from the workshops' products topped £2,500 and this year things are going even better.

Much of this income comes from the production of Welslips, a light sheepskin or leather slipper for wearing inside rubber boots. Drummonds has taken over the company which produced Welslips and now has sole production rights. "Last year we sold £1,500 worth of the product" said Mr. Smith. "We advertise in farming journals and market by mail order. The administration of this alone keeps several people occupied, as well as the production."

There are two large lathes in the workshops and another resident has purchased his own lathe. Skilled turners produce such things as wooden fruit bowls, and egg cups.

Handicrafts such as the manufacture of soft toys, jewellery, leatherwork and mosaic table tops are some of the other productive industries. Light industrial works such as plastic sorting, and nob and clip assemblies

for televisions are also undertaken.

A large social hall is the main feature of the social and administration block. It can be used for social functions, or divided by a wooden screen for routine use. A juke box, billiard table, and also a coffee bar are contained in the hall.

There is a large assembly hall where many wheelchairs can gather before outings. Offices, a laundry, cloakroom, a kitchen, and canteens for both staff and residents are all included in this block.

Care staff at Drummonds is employed in the ratio of one to every three residents. The staff is supplemented by foreign students, most of whom intend to study social subjects at University. The students work on an au-pair basis. They have come from Holland, Germany, France, Switzerland, Sweden, Spain — even from as far away as Japan.

At the Centre there is a variety of leisure activities. In addition there is ample opportunity for further education, with classes in subjects ranging from reading and writing to social studies and art. Tutors are provided by the County Council.

When the foundations for the new Drummonds buildings were laid two and a half years ago, the foundations were also laid for a new way of life in which spastics can live comfortably and productively in pleasant surroundings. A far cry from the days before The Spastics Society was formed, when many spastics were shut away in inadequate homes, and denied their chance in life.

PETER COOK

## DON'T KNOCK THOSE ROCKS

YOU CAN'T GET BLOOD out of a stone. But you can turn even some of the humblest of rocks into shining, colourful jewellery. Even the pebbles which you find in your garden can be cut and polished to reveal the brilliant colours beneath the rough exterior.

Lapidary—the art of cutting and polishing stones — was prominently displayed at the Do-It-Yourself Exhibition at Olympia. It is a hobby which is fast catching on in Britain, and lapidary clubs are springing up throughout the country.

Spastics produce many top quality pieces of handicraft in their workshops. They operate lathes and looms, drills and grinders. Many would find little difficulty in operating a simple lapidary machine. It is also relatively inexpensive, and a small one can be bought for under £20.

Lapidary might become an attractive addition to workshop activities. Even a profitable one—for jewellery made from semi-precious stones is becoming increasingly popular and can fetch good prices. Besides this, there is the intense satisfaction

of turning what appears to be a lump of old rock into a gem.

Unfortunately, Britain is virtually bereft of really good rock. There are some agates and patches of quartz, but British lapidaryists generally use imported material. Several companies import the rock which can be bought for fairly low prices. Agates, amethyst jasper, rose quartz and verdite can all be bought for between 10s. and 15s. a pound. It comes from America, Australia, Africa and many other countries.

## Polish

Most gem-cutting machines carry the same basic equipment. There is a coarse grinding wheel for shaping the stone, a finer wheel for refining the shape, and abrasive discs for smoothing the surface. The stone is given a final polish on a felt buffer, to make it gleam.

These machines are usually powered by small electric

motors of the type used in a washing machine. Second-hand ones are easily obtainable and cheap.

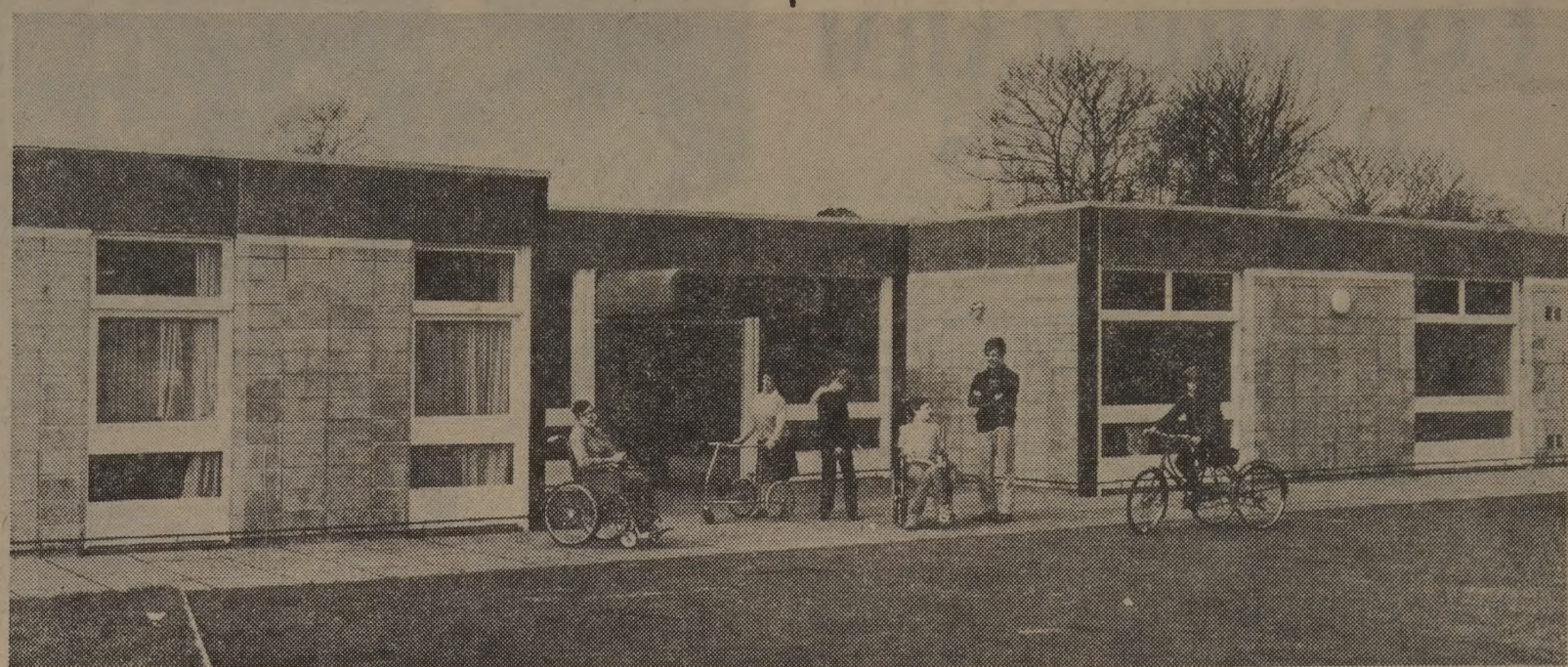
At the Do-It-Yourself Exhibition, one exhibitor displayed a dish full of gleaming tumbled stones revealing exquisite colours. They were all made from pebbles dug up out of his own garden.

## Popular

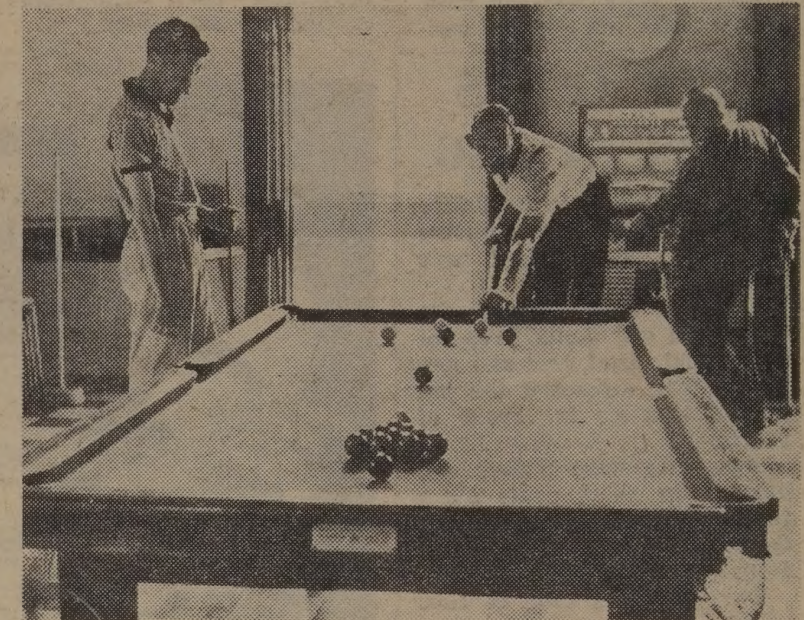
The setting of cut and polished stones is relatively simple. Ready-made settings for cuff links, brooches, earrings, tie clips, pendants, rings and so on can be bought fairly cheaply. The stones are merely cemented to these using araldite.

In countries such as Australia, where plenty of natural rock is to be found, lapidary has really caught on. The signs are that it will become just as popular in Britain.

The exhibition at Olympia provided a wealth of ideas on jobs one could do for oneself, from tiling the bathroom to building your own boat. There were even demonstrations on how to make your own wine and beer.—P.C.

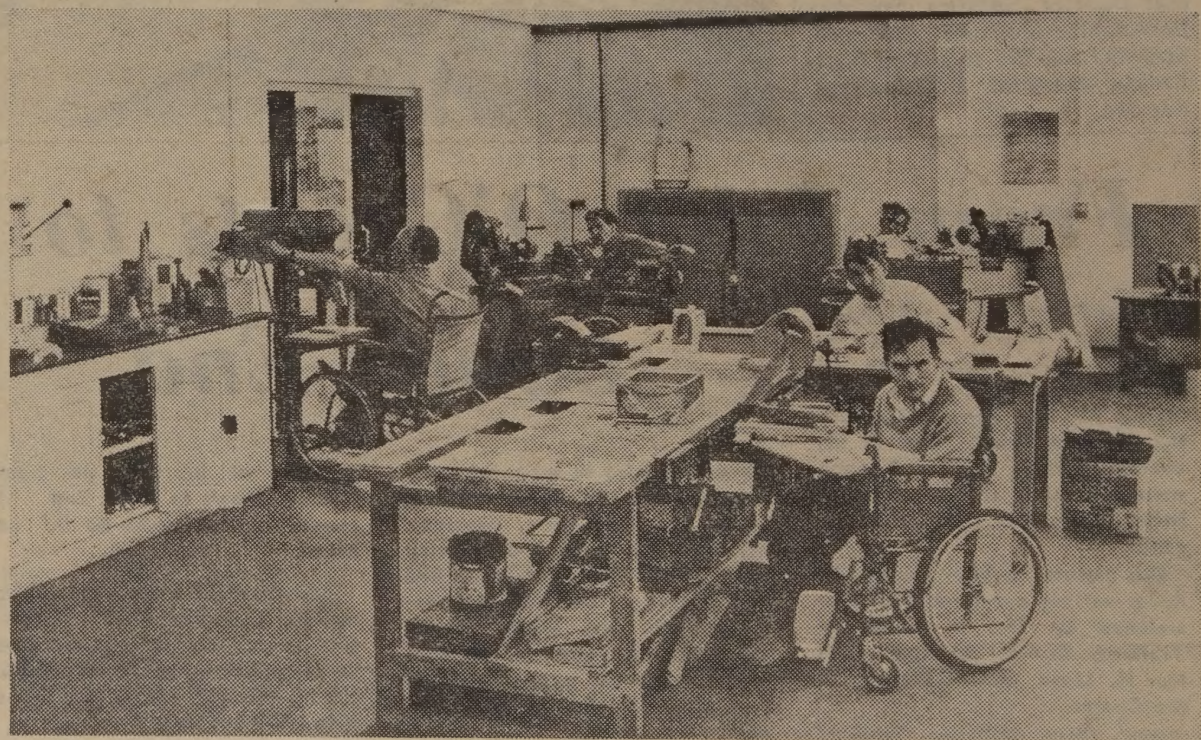


Above: Drummonds, The Spastics Society's newest Adult Residential Centre, stands in a pleasant rural setting at Ferring, near Colchester, Essex.



Right: Residents enjoy a game of snooker in the social hall at Drummonds.

Below: The workshops at Drummonds are spacious and modern. A wide range of articles from wooden bowls to Welslips are produced there.



## "One-in-four" plan to help charities

ALBERT HALL seat-holder, Mr. Peter Zinn, has thought of a new way of helping charities, including The Spastics Society.

Many seats at the Royal Albert Hall are privately owned, and Mr. Zinn has 100 of them. He has decided that people booking seats for performances at the Albert Hall should receive every fourth ticket free.

They are asked to donate the money for the free ticket to charity.

Said Mr. Zinn: "Many charities put on shows at the Royal Albert Hall to raise money. But they are often unsuccessful. I feel that this is a much safer way for them to make money."

He said people wishing to buy tickets could send for a free programme of forthcoming events by writing to him at 126 Kenilworth Court, S.W.15, or telephoning 01-584-1001.

## THE YOUNG HANDICAPPED CHILD

AGATHA H. BOWLEY and LESLIE GARDNER

Second Edition. 178 pages. 47 illus. 30s.

"Dr. Bowley is well known to many parents and student teachers for her work on the development of the normal child and she has, in her earlier work, effectively contrasted natural psychological development with the difficulties of the deviant child. In this book, she has collaborated with the Principal Psychologist to the Spastics Society to produce a revised edition of a work first published 10 years ago which is concerned with four specific categories of handicap—the cerebral palsied, the deaf, the blind and the autistic child.

The latter section is completely new and covers a growth area in child psychology. Autism was, if not unknown, certainly an undefined condition 10 years ago and this brief section attempts to cover the developments that have occurred in this period both in differentiating the symptoms from analogous psychotic conditions and in hammering out a treatment pattern."

TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

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## West Cheshire Hospital Management Committee

Physiotherapist (Senior grade) required from November, 1969, to take sole charge of treatments in Spastic Unit for pre: school children in Chester.

Applications containing names and addresses of two referees to the Hospital Secretary, Chester Royal Infirmary, Nicholas Street, Chester, as soon as possible.



# The Undaunted

Spastics News tells the stories of yet more spastics who have overcome their handicaps to win through to success.

A HEAVILY HANDICAPPED spastic student, whose university career was threatened because he could find nobody to look after him, will now be able to go to university after all.

He is John Williams, 29, right, of Hoylake, Cheshire, whose movements are severely restricted and who speaks with considerable difficulty.

John was offered a place at Reading University to study politics. But for a while it looked as if he would be unable to accept the place, because he could not find anyone to help him with such things as feeding, bathing and getting into and out of his wheelchair.

Now an attendant has been found. He is an R.A.F. pensioner from Northern Ireland. As a result John will enroll at Reading later this month.

A spokesman for Reading University said John's accommodation problems had also been solved. A ground floor post-graduate flat had

been made available for him.

A former student of Oakwood Further Education Centre, run by The Spastics Society at Kelvedon, Essex, John has three "A" levels, one with a distinction.

A spastic who has completed his degree, and who is returning to university for post-graduate studies is Lance Green, aged 22.

A former student at the Thomas Delarue School at Tonbridge, Kent, Lance won a second class honours degree in mathematics at the University College of Cardiff. He cannot write, and answered his examination questions by dictation.

Lance's father, Police Inspector George Green of Bassaleg, Monmouthshire, wrote up essays and lecture notes for Lance during his evenings and rest days. His mother took a job as a secretary in order to pay for a mini-car for John to drive to and from his daily lectures.



WHEN John Heath Wilkinson started school in Lincoln, many teachers must have doubted whether he would ever progress beyond the "C" stream. Because John, a spastic, is confined to a chair, unable to walk and writes only with difficulty.

Now, aged 23 and with six "O" levels and three "A" levels behind him, he has won a place at Cardiff University.

His success, which will encourage all those who face similar handicaps, comes after years of struggling to overcome endless difficulties. But with the help and support of his parents, he has won through into the most important era of his life.

Although he is believed to be the first seriously handicapped student to enter Cardiff University, John, who lives with his parents, and younger brother in Lamb Gardens, Lincoln, is undaunted.

"I hope I shall soon integrate into university life and take an active part in all the activities," he said.

Going with him will be his father, Mr. Clarence Wilkinson, who will assist him in his lodgings and take John, in his wheelchair, to the university every day.

## DIFFICULTY WITH NOTES

John is the first to admit that this will pose a financial problem for his retired father, and it will also mean the family will be split up for 30 weeks of the year. But, as some compensation for this, his father is hoping for a grant to help them.

"The advisory officer at Cardiff is trying to find accommodation for us on a ground floor level and with the bathroom and toilet on the same floor," John pointed out.

University life will hold many problems for him. For instance, during lectures he will be unable to take notes like the other students. But he hopes to get round this by having a carbon copy of notes made by someone else or by using a tape recorder.

A flight of stairs leads up to the library at the university, but he plans to make the best possible use he can of the books available. Once students realise his difficulty, there should be no shortage of volunteers to help him up and down.

When John takes his examinations, if he is unable to type his papers, he has to dictate his answers. This means he is given a longer time limit than other students, and he takes the exams in a room on his own.

But there is no disputing his ability. He got

a grade A in "A"-level history, "A"-levels in Biblical knowledge and maths, and "O"-levels in English language, English literature, French history, Biblical knowledge and maths.

At Cardiff he plans to take a Bachelor of Arts degree in English history and Bible study. This again poses a problem, because in Bible studies the students have to do Greek and Hebrew.

So John is planning to contact Jewish organisations, the Greek Embassy and the Church authorities to see if he can borrow a typewriter with Greek and Jewish characters.

## DEBT TO TEACHERS

He does not intend to rely on the good nature of his student colleagues. "I hope to be independent, if I possibly can," he said.

After a short period of private tuition at home, John began his schooling at St. Giles—in the "C" stream.

He is conscious of the debt of gratitude he owes to his teachers in the early days, and the education which led up to him gaining a place at the Shaftesbury Home, Wellingborough, at the age of eight.

While he was there he received a prize for educational progress, before going on to St. Margaret's School, Croydon.

## HE ENJOYS FISHING

From Croydon, he went to The Spastics Society's Thomas Delarue School at Tonbridge, Kent, the world's first school to offer secondary and grammar education for spastics. He left Tonbridge in 1966 to go to the Society's Oakwood Further Education Centre for Spastics in Essex, where there were facilities for people to pursue their own courses of study.

"I haven't really decided what I shall do after my three years at university," said John. "I shall probably get some idea while I am there."

In his spare time, he enjoys fishing. "At Oakwood, I got a friend to organise a fishing match to raise money for the Centre, so perhaps we can get some fishing organised at Cardiff."

Despite his handicaps, John enjoys a full life, and when the Delarue School had a 10-day educational trip to Holland, it was natural that he should be among the party.

With the ability and determination which have carried him through in the past, he is now all set to make the most of his university opportunity.

Picture and story reprinted by courtesy of the Lincolnshire Echo.

## VANDALS STRIKE AT WATFORD

THE Watford Spastics Treatment Centre has twice been broken into and staff are wondering when the raiders will strike next. They are concerned that damage to some of the Centre's vital equipment could cause serious hardship to the 60 or more children who attend for treatment.

The first time the premises were entered, a collecting doll was smashed open and £10 stolen. Two weeks later, £20 worth of damage was caused and more cash taken.

On this occasion, special light fittings were smashed and physiotherapy treatment had to be held up for three hours on the Monday morning following the raid while broken glass was cleared.

Security precautions have been tightened up and the use of guard dogs is being considered, although this could prove an expensive burden to a Group which, like all branches of the Society, is dependent on voluntary subscriptions.

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## A PRESENT FROM CLARE

During a school art exam, Clare Villeneuve, 14, a pupil at the Convent of the Assumption, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, was asked to paint a picture of a doll. When the painting was finished, Clare decided it looked more like a little spastic girl and decided to send it to The Spastics Society. "We are very interested in spastics here," she said.



## How to flonk your dwile!

Have you flonked your dwile lately? No! You haven't lived.

Members of the Diss Young Conservative Club in Norfolk were flonking their dwile recently—and we are told they feel all the better for it. The Spastics Society is better off too, because the Y.C.'s donated the proceeds of their dwile flonking tournament to the Society.

Now the question which must be burning in your minds—unless you happen to be an East Anglian—is "what is dwile flonking?" The Spastics News dwile flonking correspondent gave the following account and was subsequently banished to Ipswich...

"Dwile flonking is played by a group of people in traditional dress, standing in a circle. Each has a flonking stick, with which he (or she) hurls (or flonks) a beer soaked dish cloth (or dwile) at the head of the person opposite. Anyone hit in the head by a dwile is allowed a suck of the dish cloth (or dwile) and must drink a chamber pot of beer. Anyone who remains sober is the winner."

We hasten to add—before dwile flonkers unite and begin to march on London—that this account is our correspondent's own and is not necessarily endorsed by the Editor.

The history of dwile flonking is alleged to be shrouded in the mists of antiquity. The ancient rules are inscribed on parchment and safeguarded so well that even most of the dwile flonkers haven't ever seen them.

Should you journey to East Anglia to delve more deeply into this ancient and noble sport, you will probably find that dwellers will fix you with steely eyes and mutter in their native tongue. They may even flonk their dwiles at you.

## GOALS GALORE AT STAMFORD

It may not have been World Cup class football, but nevertheless the match between the T.V. Entertainers Eleven and Stamford Sportsmen drew a crowd of about 2,000 at Stamford.

More than £100 was raised at the match, and the money will go to the Stamford and District Spastics Society.

Goals came thick and fast during the game, which ended in a 5-5 draw.

The Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts Club staged a display of vehicles in aid of spastics at the Orsett Show. About £16 was collected for Thurrock Spastics Society funds.

## £100 donated

The Peterborough and District Spastics Society have donated £100 to the Wilfred Pickles School Swimming Pool Fund.

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## NOVEL TWISTS TO OLD IDEAS

I WAS HEARTENED to find that during Spastics Week a number of novel methods of fund raising were used. I hope that Group members will not confine their inventiveness to just one week of the year, but will put new ideas into practice all the time.

But "novelty" events are not necessarily completely new ideas—many are new variations on an old theme. Sponsored walks, for instance, have been operating for sometime but, recently, Groups have shown great initiative by holding events involving other forms of sponsorship. Outstanding among these have been sponsored swims, sponsored roller-skating, and sponsored riding.

### Swim success

A notable result during Spastics Week was achieved by the Shropshire Group, with a swim which raised £1,000. Competitors in a swim, are of course, sponsored at a rate per length rather than per mile. Advantages are that the event is held in surroundings where a constant watch can be kept on all participants, and adverse weather presents no problem. Given the full co-operation of the local baths, sponsored swims become an ideal money-making event.

This is not, of course, to say that conventional sponsored walks have had their day. Recently Steyning Grammar School, Sussex, proved there is plenty of life left in this method by raising nearly £2,000 in one day. The entire School of 780 pupils turned out for an 18 mile walk over the Sussex Downs. The walk, organised by head boy Michael Best, received full support from the staff, many of whom either joined the walk or acted as marshalls.

The school's efforts were on behalf of local Brighton area spastics and national funds. Over £1,750 has already been received and there is more to come. Well done Steyning!

### Planning

We are all now planning for next year's Week—July 5 to 11—although determined it should not adversely effect our normal fund-raising activities. One of the main events will be a national flag day. Application has been made by the Society for collections in the Metropolitan area on Saturday, 11th July 1970. Separate applications should be made as soon as possible by each Group outside the Metropolitan Police Area. Local police will provide full advice.

Media for the flag day collection will be available from 12 Park Crescent, and further details will be given in the near future.

A very encouraging pointer to the success of a Spastics Week in bringing central Society and local Groups closer is a recent generous gesture from the York and District Group. Central funds have benefited by £375 as a contribution to Spastics Week from York. A further £100 had already been donated to Hawkearth Hall Assessment Centre by the Group. These gifts point to the real meaning of work for spastics—that the need can be anywhere and, that we are all working to the same end.

**MIKE REYNOLDS**  
Spastics Week  
Co-ordinator



## Wakes Hall party sees the sights

A PARTY of residents from Wakes Hall, the S.O.S. Centre for older spastics, recently spent a fortnight's holiday in London. They stayed at Fitzroy Square Family Services and Assessment Centre, and a varied programme of sightseeing was laid on for them by Mrs. Sheila Rawstorne, Secretary of the Stars Organisation for Spastics, and S.O.S. members.

Outings included visits to Westminster Abbey, the Zoo, M.G.M. film studios and, as a special treat for the ladies of the party, a trip to the West End shops. Four evenings were taken up by visits to the Players Theatre, the Festival Hall, the Palladium, and Cinerama.

I joined the party on an excursion to Windsor. A large coach had been hired, and as all but two of the eleven residents needed wheelchairs, loading up and disembarking was a major operation.

The four members of Wakes Hall staff who were on holiday with the group were joined by Mrs. Rawstorne and her secretary and S.O.S. Member, Sheila Parry. Mr. and Mrs. Ron Goodwin also joined the party at Windsor to help with the pushing.

### Drinks

Although access difficulties prevented us from visiting the State Apartments, the residents enjoyed seeing at close range the massive stone walls, well-kept gardens and extensive views over two counties.

At the end of the tour each spastic member of the party was presented by Mr. and Mrs. Goodwin with an illustrated guide book to the castle. On the way back to London we stopped at a riverside pub near Mortlake, where, to the delight of the organisers, a round of drinks for the entire party was unexpectedly provided "On the house."

### Workshop

Wakes Hall was opened in 1964 as a residential home for 20 heavily handicapped adults. Most of them have single rooms at the Centre and there is a workshop where they are employed during normal working hours on a sub-contract basis for a local toy firm.

The oldest resident is now 65. The rest are mainly in their 40s and 50s. These are people who grew to adult life before The Spastics Society existed and some had spent many years in unsuitable surroundings before coming to Wakes Hall.

Like the Centres which cater for a younger age-group of adult spastics, Wakes Hall has its share of romances. One couple who met when the Centre first opened, have been engaged for four years.

It cannot be easy for middle-aged people adapt to communal living. However, the Wakes Hall residents seem to get on well with the staff and with each other, while losing none of their individuality A.P.

## Crochet for the cause

Mrs. "Mick" Ashford of Gravesend, left, crochets dolls to sell in aid of spastics. Looking on are her daughter, Mrs. Joan Coleman, Hon. Secretary of North West Kent Spastics Group, and grand-daughter Mary, aged 23, who is a spastic. (Photo by courtesy of Gravesend Reporter).

## Canadians want Travel Scheme

THE Canadian delegates to the International '62 Clubs Conference, hope to set up a travel exchange scheme between handicapped people of their own country, and those of European countries.

Spastics Harry Worthington and John Kellerman, of Toronto, were given an \$1,800 (£720) grant by their Government to visit Britain, make contacts, and compile a report on ways in which the scheme could be set up.

Accompanying them was Peter Brydon, also of Toronto, a voluntary worker of the Company of Young Canadians, who has been appointed to work among the physically handicapped.

"In 1967," said Mr. Kellerman, "the Canadian Government set aside funds for overseas travel. People could apply for these funds, providing that their overseas visits would be educationally and culturally enriching."

### Grant Sought

"I wrote to the Government to find out if funds could be made available for handicapped people to take part in a travel exchange scheme. Nothing happened until last September when I wrote a second

letter to the Government.

"This was followed by the \$1,800 grant to come over here and look into the possibilities of starting the scheme."

At the conference the Canadian party was able to discuss its plans with delegates from nine different countries.

Mr. Worthington told the conference: "Travel exchange could be one of the finest ways for handicapped people in different countries to compare their mutual problems and learn about each other's methods for dealing with them."

Mr. Brydon said that one of the difficulties facing them was that Britain and many European countries did not have funds available for travel.

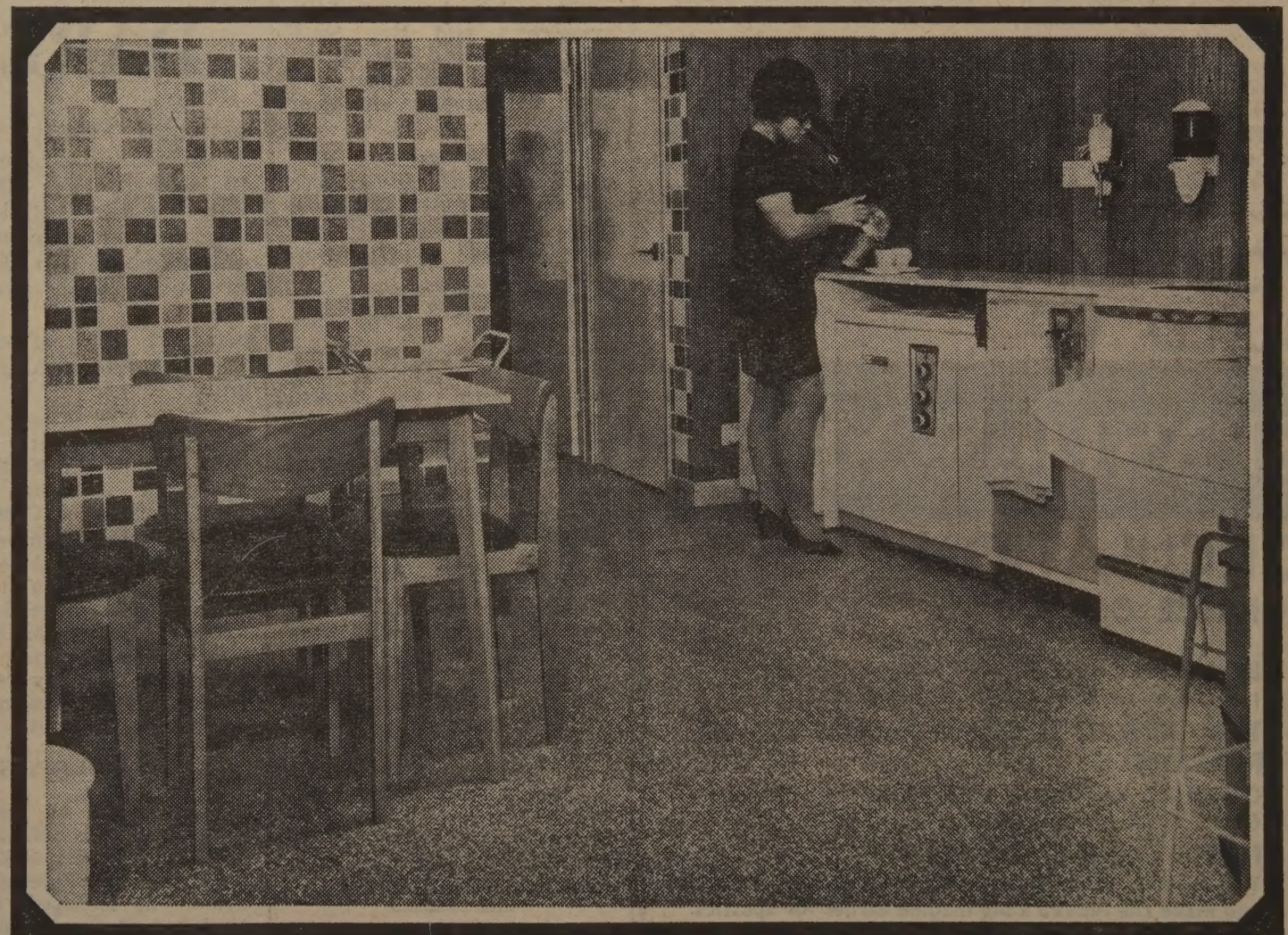
"However there is plenty of excellent accommodation available for handicapped people over here," he said.

In Canada we have the money available but there are few facilities for handicapped people.

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# It's good deeds that count — not harsh words

**T**HE WORD "SPASTIC" as a term of abuse among young people has been used for so long that one might have thought it would have gone out of fashion by now.

However, a recent letter to Spastics News reports that during a game of cricket in the park, a young boy was overheard to call his mate a "stupid spastic" because of a dropped catch.

"We wish to be integrated into society," said our correspondent. "But don't want to be labelled with the equivalent of a four-letter word."

Personally, I don't think it matters all that much. Every generation has its own glossary of slang terms which become completely divorced from the original meaning.

Whether a schoolboy calls somebody a "stupid spastic" or a "silly twit"—words are unimportant. What counts is the goodwill.

## KALEIDOSCOPE

by

Anne Plummer

Every week dozens of stories pour into this office telling of young people's efforts on behalf of spastics.

Croydon Wayfarers, a club for people aged 15 to 24, does voluntary work for spastics all through the year. Members arrange all kinds of outings and other social activities for pupils of a nearby spastics school.

On the fund-raising side, too, young people show plenty of initiative. Sponsored walks were a popular way of making money for spastics this summer. Pupils of Steyning Grammar School, for instance, raised £2,000 during a 20-mile trek over the Sussex downs, and £555 was collected from sponsors by students of Coalville Technical College in Leicestershire.

St. Paul's School at Addle-

stone contributed £900 towards an extension at White Lodge Centre, Chertsey, Surrey. Senior pupils helped in the house-to-house collection for White Lodge, which raised £1,300.

Schoolchildren, too, were the best supporters for the Percy Hedley Million Shillings Appeal in Newcastle. Ten children, aged between four and 14, made £6 at a fete in aid of White Lodge, while amounts of £11 in Bradford, £10 in Luton and £6 in Halifax were raised at jumble sales organised by youngsters in the same age group.

Local children raised £20 with a spastics fete in Kirkburton, Yorks; three Oldham schoolgirls, bored with having nothing to do, set up a stall and earned £4 10s. In Barnet, Herts, a pupil of the Wilfred Pickles School for Spastics collected £12 4s. 5d. for the school at a jumble sale which he organised during the holidays.

Schoolchildren have been busy helping out at the Nottingham Family Help Unit.

Parties of boys have been working on a number of large projects, such as building an all-weather sand pit and collecting and varnishing pickle barrels from which they will make play tunnels. They hope to start work shortly on a small caravan which they will convert to make a Wendy House.

### PLAYTIME

The girls are more directly concerned with the children, taking them to the park to feed the ducks and generally organising play activities.

Finally, here is a letter which was passed to us by the East Anglia Regional Office:—

"Dear Sir,—I held a fete in my garden on Saturday and we collected £2 2s. 9d. for the spastics. All my friends and some of their mummies came and spent lots of money. I hope it will help a bit. Love from Jeanette Salter (aged 6½)."



Above: Elaine Jackson (right) and Julie Carter (second from right), both aged 10, who held a garden party at Elaine's home at West Bridgford, Notts. The proceeds of the effort were sent to The Spastics Society. (Photo by courtesy of the Nottingham Guardian Journal).

Right: Karen Dobson (left), aged 13, and Lynda Holroyd, 12, of Kimberworth, Yorks., spent their summer holiday weaving table mats which they sold in aid of spastics. (Photo by courtesy of Rotherham Advertiser).

## Caravan plea by parents

The parents of a spastic boy are to fight for permission to put a tea-selling caravan on a roadside site to provide work for their 16-year-old son.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Salisbury, of Bangor, North Wales, who have nine other children, have been refused permission by Caernarvonshire County Council.

"They showed us very little sympathy," said Mrs. Salisbury. "I thought that in the circumstances they might have made an exception to their rules."

"They told us they discouraged roadside sales such as we proposed. Our son, Johnny, is 16 and will never be able to find proper employment."

"We struck on this idea as he would not need to move about much but it would keep him busy. We were most disappointed when the Council turned down our application."

The family live in a three-bedroomed house with six of their children. The others are at college and university, and Johnny is, at the moment, in a special school.

"We don't want to make money out of the caravan. It is just an idea to keep Johnny employed," said Mrs. Salisbury.

Mr. and Mrs. Salisbury plan to keep up their campaign for a site by trying other councils in the area.

A spokesman for Caernarvonshire County Council said they had tremendous sympathy for the family, but it was not the Council's policy to allow road-side sales of this type.

## CLUBLAND RAMS RAISE CASH

When it comes to raising money for charity, you can't pull the wool over the eyes of the Clubland Rams Association, of South Yorkshire.

The Rams is an association of cabaret artists, whose aim is to help the needy by holding charity concerts to raise funds.

A show to raise money for spastics, is high on their list of fund-raising events.



## MAMMOTH POP SHOW AIDS DARESBUY HALL FUNDS

**S**INGER Marty Wilde signed programmes for 40 spastics from Daresbury Hall Adult Residential Centre, after performing at a mammoth Pop Festival, to raise money for the Centre. He made a special point of chatting to the residents, and signing autographs.

A line-up of 16 beat groups, in addition to Marty Wilde, took part in the Festival, at Peninsular Barracks, Orford Lane, Warrington, Cheshire.

Three stages had been set up and the groups played non-stop from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Luckily, the weather remained dry and the Festival was held in the open air. At one stage there were 1,500 young people dancing and listening to the music.

### NO INCIDENTS

The Warden of Daresbury Hall, Mr. F. W. Bellman, said the Festival ran smoothly and there were no unpleasant incidents. The teenagers who attended, and the residents of Daresbury Hall, had enjoyed themselves immensely.

"We are not sure how much money was raised," he said. "But we anticipate that it will be something in the region of £350."

"This will go towards a £20,000 recreation hall at the Centre. Already we have raised £8,000 towards the hall."

He said more money would have been raised if permission had been granted for a licensed bar at the Festival.

"There are many people in

the 18 to 25 age group who like to attend these functions, provided they are able to get a drink. I think more people in this age group would have turned up if a bar had been provided. The takings from the bar would have swelled the proceeds as well," he added.

"This is the first time that any function of this kind has been held in support of Daresbury Hall. It has been a great success, and we shall be holding more of them in the not too distant future."

The Festival was arranged by Warrington disc jockeys Dave Warwick and Pete Rugby.

Groups taking part all work through the Delrick Entertainment L.E. Agency, and they all performed free. They were: Weather, Harlem John's Reshuffle, Look Twice, The Answers, Scenic City Smash, The Magoos, Just Us, The Rodents, The Round House, Tin Foil, The Henry Ink Blot Splash Band, The Scene, The Living Soul, The Goliwogs and Stevie's Fix and Jump.

Daresbury Hall Circle of

## TWO YEARS AHEAD AT LOWESTOFT

Building has started on the new £5,500 Spastics Centre at Till Road, Lowestoft, which should be completed by mid-December—two years earlier than was first anticipated.

The centre will provide a place where parents can leave their children while they go shopping, and will also be the headquarters of the Society. Physiotherapy will be given there and games and parties are to be run for the children.

### TARGET

The Lowestoft and North-East Suffolk Spastics Society has set a target of £3,000 to be raised by the end of the year, £1,220 of which has already been found since April. House-to-house collections and the flag day combined brought in £700, and the Beccles support group raised £100 at their flag day.

A "brick fund" has been started by the Society, which hopes to "sell" at least 5,000 bricks by the end of the year for a shilling each. If only one person in 20 in Lowestoft alone purchases one brick, the target will be reached.

The Society's treasurer, Mr. T. Read, said costs of the new centre could be met without resorting to bank loans or mortgages.

At the group's Annual General Meeting recently, he said gross receipts for the past year amounted to a record sum of £2,464. Profits amounted to £1,373. The group's total assets were £3,221, he added.

Friends helped to keep the Festival running smoothly.

Daresbury Hall is a large Georgian house set in the Cheshire countryside. It provides a home for up to 60 spastics aged from 13 to 45.

## Disc jockey opens horse show

Both the South East Surrey and the Horsham and Crawley Groups of The Spastics Society will benefit from a horse show held at Worth, Surrey.

The show, which was opened by disc jockey Bruce Wyndham, raised £103, to be shared between the two Groups.

Highlight of the afternoon was a musical ride and display by Crabbet Park Disabled Riders Group.

The Riding Group, which was started just over three years ago, now has 20 members, of all ages.

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# "Disastrous" tricycles says report

Motorised tricycles used by disabled people are fairly disastrous vehicles, according to a report in "Which?", the Consumers' Association journal. The report adds that converted small cars with manual gear changes are equally unacceptable to some disabled people, but for different reasons.

Mrs. Eirlys Roberts, Head of Research at "Which?", said that a total of 13 disabled drivers tested the range of vehicles for the disabled available in Britain. Four of them joined the Car Test Unit's permanent staff for six months, and nine gave up their spare time at weekends to test the vehicles.

Chief criticisms of the tricycles are:

They are underpowered, accelerate slowly, have low maximum speed and can only crawl up hills.

They are unstable, blown about badly by side winds and badly affected by rough or heavily cambered roads. They have also been known to roll when swerving suddenly.

## UNRELIABLE

They are noisy and tend to vibrate.

They are unreliable. It is pointed out in the report that a breakdown for a disabled person is far more serious than for an able bodied person. After a breakdown a disabled person might have to wait a long time for a passing motorist to stop and get help.

They have only one seat, making it impossible for the driver to go out with friends or with members of his family. This also means that he would have no one to help him in case of a breakdown.

They give a very rough ride on poor road surfaces.

They are poorly heated and windows tend to mist up in wet weather. It is often difficult for a disabled person to wipe windows under these circumstances.

The report claims that tricycles — which are small and vulnerable — have lagged far behind conventional cars where safety features are concerned.

## DANGEROUS

They have only one door so that if one were to tip over on the wrong side, its driver can be trapped. And there is insufficient padding for potentially dangerous projections.

"Undoubtedly there are special problems in these vehicles — but little has been

done to put right even some obvious faults let alone the difficult ones," says the report.

In addition to the tricycles "Which?" tested specially adapted small cars, with both automatic and manual gear control.

"The cars with automatic gear control were clearly the easiest to handle," says the report.

The report concludes that any really satisfactory vehicle for a severely disabled person must have automatic gear control.

It points out that a new tricycle being developed by the Government has this feature.

A prototype of this vehicle — the P5 — was tested by "Which?" and found to be a vast improvement on existing trikes.

It had a more powerful engine, nearly the speed of a Mini, its handling was acceptable, it was not so unstable in side winds, it was fairly reliable and gave a reasonable ride.

"Which?" comments: "We hope this vehicle will get on the road as soon as possible."



## Boss pays for Group holiday

Mr. James Mellor, Hon. Secretary of the Oldham Spastics Society, mentioned to his employer that he was having difficulty in arranging a sea-side outing for the group.

"Leave it all to me," said the boss, Mr. Percy Hargreaves, director of a local jig and tool company.

He organised and paid for the entire outing to St. Annes in which 52 parents and spastics took part. Entertainments included a visit to the boating lake and a Punch and Judy show.

Mr. Hargreaves, who has been elected a Vice-President of the Oldham and District Spastics Society, plans to make the trip an annual event. (Photo, courtesy of Oldham Evening Chronicle).

## Calendars began the Kingston success story

IT ALL BEGAN eleven years ago, when eight spastics began to produce calendars from cigarette packets in a near-derelict shop at Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey. From these humble beginnings, the North Surrey Work Centre has grown tremendously—until now it can provide a wide range of work for up to 40 spastics in a well-equipped spanking new workshop.

The new workshop is part of large scale extensions to the Work Centre in Geneva Road, Kingston, run by the North Surrey Group. The extensions will be opened by Kingston M.P. Mr. John Boyd-Carpenter on October 14. Spastics began using the extensions which cost £19,000, in April this year, and already the workforce has been increased from 25 to 32.

Calendars are still produced there, and last year 6,000 were made and sold. But now light engineering work, small printing jobs, assembly work and sorting and packing are carried out there as well. Components are made for vacuum cleaners and coin operated dry cleaning machines. Extra machinery, including a capstan lathe (for producing turned metal parts)

and a milling machine (for cutting metal) are being installed, and more work is gradually being taken on as the work force increases.

## New offices

The new extensions cover a floor space of 2,800 square feet. In addition to the workshop there are two new offices. The old workshop now provides extra canteen space, and more storerooms and toilet facilities have been installed.

Spastics who work at the centre range from lightly handicapped to very severely handicapped. There is a supervisory staff of five, including one spastic. The work force is drawn from a wide area of Surrey,

## Artist gives paintings

One of the paintings in an art exhibition held at a public house on the outskirts of Durham was donated to raise money for the Durham branch of The Spastics Society.

The artist, Mr. Tom Spark, of Sunderland, had 15 other oil paintings in the exhibition. Many of these had been painted since Mr. Spark retired as a tobacconist and confectioner four years ago.

and some spastics travel from as far away as Guildford and Sheerwater.

The North Surrey Group owns two ambulances which provide transport to and from the centre.

The group feels there is a desperate need for a hostel in Kingston, so that spastics from outlying areas can live near the centre. Spastics attending the centre live with their families. When their parents are unable to look after them they move to residential centres, and this means leaving the work centre. The group believes that a local hostel would overcome this problem.

The Geneva Road work centre went into operation in 1963. Before that a disused public house was used, and before that the old shop.

A series of darts matches held over the past three months have raised £140 for Castleford and District Spastics Society. A trophy was presented to the area champions, the Horse Vaults Hotel team from Pontefract, Yorks.



IT'S NO LAUGHING matter for the clowns' appeal for Croydon and District Spastics Society in Sutton High Street. With the help of the old barrel organ the overall collection came to £130. Seen from the left: Stephen Mansfield, Susan Capon and Annette Tran, with members of the Croydon Spastics Society.

## KEY OF THE DOOR FOR WESTERLEA SCHOOL

WESTERLEA Residential School for severely handicapped children celebrated its 21st anniversary with a former pupils' reunion. The school, in Ellersly Road, Edinburgh, was the first establishment provided by the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics.

The School was opened in 1948 and was later extended to accommodate 26 resident and 15 day pupils. Although the Council's operations have widened in recent years to include the treatment and care of spastics of all ages and degrees of physical and intellectual handicap, it was considered that a residential school caring for spastic children from all over Scotland which would combine special education with medical treatment was the most urgent initial requirement.

Numerous severely handicapped spastic children have

passed through the school benefiting from combined education, physiotherapy, speech therapy and occupational therapy arranged to the individual needs of each child. The school work conforms as nearly as possible to the normal pattern, and participation in adapted games, dramatics, music, crafts and gardening, is encouraged.

## Transfer chances

In some cases, children improve to the extent that they can be transferred to less specialised schools, and, in a very limited number of cases, to normal schools.

Westerlea School is under the direction of the Warden, Miss M. H. M. McAllister, S.R.N., S.C.M., and is staffed by a headmistress, qualified teachers, classroom assistants, therapists and housemothers.

The physical welfare of the children is supervised by a visiting physician and a resident nursing sister, and a full range of medical and dental specialist consultant services is available when required.

The Warden has kept former pupils in touch with each other by producing an annual newsletter.

The first pupil at Westerlea School, Duncan Fraser, who is Chairman of the Westerlea School Former Pupils Association, is now a qualified solicitor and has graduated from Aberdeen University. Duncan is at present taking a further University course despite his physical disabilities.

Westerlea School is at present attended by 46 children from Aberdeen, Angus, Berwickshire, Clacks, Dundee, Edinburgh, East Lothian, Fife, Glasgow, Midlothian, Moray and Nairn, Perth, Stirling and West Lothian.

## Stigma

Paul Hunt (ed.)

## The experience of disability

Foreword by Peter Townsend

"Twelve physically disabled men and women write sensibly about their problems. So far from being grim this is an inspiring book, not only for others who are ill and crippled, but for any of us who are ever bowed down by lesser worries." *Sunday Express*. "I felt compelled to go from one chapter to the next until it was finished. I think this is a book to be read by everybody whether or not they have any particular connection with disabled people." *Social Service Quarterly*. SBN 225 27584 8, 8½" X 5½", 188 pp, illus., 25s.

## Two important publications this Autumn

## Pope John XXIII

A moving memento of one of the greatest figures of the twentieth century. Letters to his Family 1901-1963.

For sixty years, from his days as a seminarian in Rome to his death as Pope, John XXIII wrote long affectionate and detailed letters to members of his family. He was the eldest brother of ten children; they looked to him for advice in domestic, legal and financial matters, for consolation in times of war, illness and death. He never failed them: constantly from his pen letters flowed, often written late at night from his delegation in Turkey or Greece or Paris.

These letters show how surprisingly constant his character was: the deep affection for people, the grasp of reality the sense of tact, the insistence on what was important, the radical pervading sense of God in every single thing that astonished the world when he was Pope, was always there.

SBN 225 4884 6 960 pages 30 November 95s.

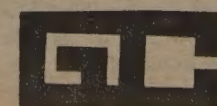
## The Bible Reader

## An Interfaith Interpretation

Edited by Walter Abbott SJ, Rabbi Arthur Gilbert. Dr. Lainer and Dr. J. Carter Swaim.

The Bible Reader is a great publishing venture. A Jew, a Catholic, and two Protestant ministers, have worked together for many years to present a selected Bible text with commentary on the historical, literary, geographical and human situation which makes sense of it and "place" it. Revised Standard Version is the text generally used because it is acceptable to all denominations. The Bible Reader is unique; it is the first inter-faith commentary for laymen.

SBN 225 27593 7 October 25s.



Geoffrey Chapman  
London Dublin Melbourne



## Pulling their weight for funds



Members of this tug-of-war team who call themselves "The Misfits," certainly pulled their weight for spastics at a recent Lowestoft fete.

(Photo by courtesy of Lowestoft Journal).

## World concern for its 400 million handicapped citizens

FOR SEVEN DAYS delegates from nations throughout the world gathered in the Irish Republic to attend the eleventh Congress of the International Society for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled. For seven nights Dublin has acted as host to over 2,500 men and women concerned with the common problem of establishing a greater public awareness, and community responsibility for the world's 400 million handicapped people.

For an international gathering of such magnitude, the absence of emphasis on political ideology is as impressive as

the earnestness with which East meets West, and with which the developing countries meet the long established, to discuss the handicapped and society's responsibility for the underprivileged.

It is seldom possible to measure progress on an international scale in this somewhat intangible field. Yet the observer at this 1969 Congress could not fail to be impressed, not only by what seemed to have been achieved in the two years since the last Congress, but by the determination of the Congress to establish a role for the handicapped in society, and also, a role for society in relation to the handicapped.

Social planning, social welfare, education and medicine, their guidelines for the future, and the interplay between these quite distinct yet closely related fields, formed not only the basis of the Congress discussions, both inside and outside the conference halls, but also the theme of the Congress exhibition.

Clearly a great deal of effort and thought had gone into the exhibits and the participation of the British Government's Departments of Health & Social Security, Education & Science, and Employment & Productivity, as well as their Irish Republican counterparts, did much to add weight and interest to the exhibition.

### SOCIETY EXHIBITS

The Spastics Society exhibited both as manufacturers, with the Newton Wheelchair stand, and as a voluntary organisation, and both exhibits attracted many hundreds of visitors. The Society had sought to stress not so much what it had been able to achieve in the relatively few years of its life, as the role it had been able to play in bringing to the public notice many of the problems facing the handicapped and their families. And, in addition, the way in which it had been possible for the Society to co-operate with responsible authorities in increasing the provision for this section of the community.

A special feature of the Society's stand was its con-

cern over the apathy that surrounds the design of aids and appliances, which appears to have little or no regard for the fundamental problem of the appearance of walking aids, calipers and prostheses. The cosmetic aspect of the design of many of these aids had failed to keep pace with the dramatic progress made in the mechanical and technical areas. Surprisingly, this aspect was not echoed in other exhibits, some devoted entirely to this field.

Our congratulations must go to the Central Council for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled for their excellent stand which earned for them the exhibition award.

### INGENUITY

Probably the most valuable role of the exhibition was the opportunity it offered for the interchange of ideas on a very wide range of subjects concerned with design, employment, education, mobility and aids for the handicapped. The solutions to a particular problem in Australia were not necessarily the solutions to the same problem in India, Russia or the United Kingdom, yet ingenuity and invention played an equal part in providing the solution.

Communication was at the very heart of the Congress, which gave us the opportunity to discover how others achieved similar results, to learn of new approaches, or to discuss common failures.

Long after the 2,500 delegates have left and the dust has again settled in the Royal Dublin Society's premises the lessons and the logic of the Congress will continue to be discussed, and perhaps to be practised. New contacts in the field of the handicapped will be pursued, and perhaps by 1971, when the world goes to Australia to hear about the progress of the past two years, it will learn that society has become a little more conscious of its 400 million handicapped members, and is willing to accept that degree of added responsibility about which so much has been said in the past and so much remains to be done in the future.

Derek Lancaster-Gaye.

## BIG PUSH FOR MORE MEMBERS

ONE OF THE MOST exciting competitions ever announced by Regional Pool Promotions Ltd., is to be used to spearhead a drive for thousands of new members for the Spastics Pool. Press advertisements and many thousands of canvassing leaflets will be distributed in what the Company calls its first-ever marketing promotion.

The competition involves picking a team from a list of international soccer players to represent the United Kingdom in a World Cup competition. But it is the prizes that are so attractive—50 three week holidays in glamorous Mexico, including tickets for the World Cup matches and pocket money for the trip.

### DONATIONS

Commenting on the promotion, Mr. Douglas Arter, Managing Director of R.P.P., said that there was to be an "all-out" drive for new members in the effort to maintain the high level of charity donations to The Spastics Society and other charities.

"Our immediate aim is to increase membership to such an extent that we can eliminate the tax differential caused by the result of the recent court case," he said.

The competition is being officially launched on October 3rd, but before then Spastics Pool supervisors and collectors will have received full details of the operation. The competition closes on January 3rd, 1970.

Top soccer experts have agreed to act as a judging

panel. Chairman will be famous sports broadcaster Ken Wolsstenholme and his "selectors" will be Stan Cullis, Tommy Docherty, John Charles and Peter Doherty. They have already agreed that the United Kingdom team should be a "flexible 4-2-4 formation" and the competition has therefore been devised bearing this principle in mind.

### FREE ENTRIES

All members will be allowed one free entry form for every registered membership card held. But they will also be allowed to have as many additional paid entries as they like, at a cost of 6d. per attempt. Special forms are being printed for the paid entries, and members of the Spastics Pool will be able to obtain these from their usual collector. Full details will be given in weekly bulletin No. 38.

The Spastics Pool is the oldest established and largest of the weekly charity competitions and the benefits are acknowledged to be superior to those of any similar pool. The Society is backing the promotion to the full and urges its supporters to promote the competition and the Pool among their friends and colleagues. In recent years, half the Society's annual income has been derived from this source and the latest move is an effort to maintain this level.

### Holiday for patients

Two spastic patients of Hellingly Hospital, Sussex, will be able to take their first holiday for 40 years, thanks to the Bexhill Group of the Hospital League of Friends.

The Bexhill people raised £45 at a coffee morning and Bring and Buy sale. This will enable them to pay for the spastics and their attendants to go on holiday and also provide outfits of clothing for the two patients.

## Lancaster spastics walk for others

Spastics are generally on the receiving end of money raised for charity. But 12 spastics from the Lancaster Training Centre reversed the trend when they raised £26 in a sponsored charity walk.

The spastics, eight young men and four girls, walked a total of 223 miles to raise the money, and ten of them completed the 20 mile course.

Altogether 150 people took part in the walk, which was organised by the Lancaster Round Table Club. Money raised went towards providing a special vehicle for the Homebound and Disabled Fellowship of Lancaster.

The walkers travelled

through some of the most beautiful countryside around Lancaster, in their fund raising effort. Those completing the 20 mile course were presented with a certificate by the organisers.

The spastics who took part in the walk are: Eileen Hall, from Harlow; Sandra Booker, from Glastonbury; Judy Olsen, from Alton; Janet Parker, from Rushden; Michael Ridgeway, from Poole; Garth Mathews, from Manchester; David Hartley, from Barnsley; John Hunter, from Farnham Royal; Brian Earle, from Altrincham; Anthony Thornton, from Bristol, and Philip Young, from Prestwich.

## Pen friendship leads to wedding bells



A pen friendship between two spastics led to their red letter day last month. The couple, Mr. Roy Branch and Miss Barbara Roberts, both of Croydon, were married at St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, Mitcham.

Mr. Branch was one of the first residents at Coombe Farm Adult Residential Centre at Croydon. Doctors had previously predicted that he would never be able to work. But after two years he was able to find a job and leave the Centre.

## Honour for Director



Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society, has been appointed Secretary General of the World Commission for Cerebral Palsy. This is an honorary and unpaid position and he will combine it with his other duties.

The World Commission for Cerebral Palsy has now to be set up as an independent body and will shortly be incorporated in the United Kingdom under the title of The International Cerebral Palsy Society. It will continue to have a close relationship with its former parent body, the International Society for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled.